Further Refinements to Scenario B.

The improvements suggested are over and above the DEFT recommendations for structures and habitat, and flex operations for exports. Most of the suggestions pertain to operations. Some represent slight modification or prioritization of habitat recommendations. Others pertain to stressor reduction actions identified in the ERPP.

The following is a summary of improvements to Scenario B that would lead to an improved scenario in Stage 1. The scenario would also include structure, habitat, and flex operation recommendations of DEFT. These improvements include in-Delta and upstream operations, as well as additional habitat recommendations.

1. When delta smelt are present in "significant" numbers, operate new screen systems at south Delta pumping plants without fish bypass systems. This will allow smelt to be retained and Delta channels without handling and transport. If monitoring indicates "significant" buildup of smelt in south Delta channels, then a short term export reduction in combination with higher inflow particularly from the San Joaquin in combination with an open HOR should be considered to flush smelt north to the central and western Delta.
2. Predator removal program in the south Delta - at salvage facilities and in south Delta channels adjacent to fish facilities.
3. Spring flow pulses prescribed by ERPP but not in Stage 1 list.
4. In Delta storage to provide storage releases to reduce fish being drawn toward the pumping plants at key times.
5. Expansion of south Delta channel cross sections to reduce cues that draw fish toward the pumping plants.
6. Habitat expansion in south and central Delta.
7. In addition to flex operations at the export pumps, operate Hood diversion, HOR barrier, and south Delta barriers under flexible operation and real-time basis to maximize fish survival. Conduct specific experiments during Stage 1 to determine the most effective operations for fish, water quality, and water supply benefits. There may be times when closure of the Hood facility would benefit (e.g., when large numbers of salmon fry or striped bass larvae are present). The HOR barrier may be opened to the south Delta and closed or partially blocked to the lower San Joaquin when large numbers of smelt are in the central and south Delta. (A tradeoff may be necessary that would lead to more San Joaquin splittail or salmon being salvage because of an open HOR to protect smelt, especially if new fish facilities provide high salvage survival for salmon and splittail.)